



Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Well, another month has passed and fall is finally here. Whenever it's hot we wish it was cold and when the cool weather arrives we long for warmer days. Guess we're never really satisfied with the weather. But that's okay, as they say, wait 15 minutes and it will change!

Speaking of weather, we are weathering the budget storms as best we can, making the most of our resources and doing the best job we can for the youth we serve. I can see from reading this issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* that staff everywhere continue to do great things, take care of the youth in their care and meet the mission. It is truly inspiring to read each month about the events and happenings going on throughout OJJ's world.

Speaking of events, we had two beautiful celebrations at Bridge City and Jetson, where we honored staff and retirees for their work. Swanson's event will take place in December. We also honored Chief Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball with a new award – the Champion of LA Juvenile Justice award we created to honor the people who have championed reform and worked to hard to make reform a reality.

I hope you enjoy this issue – and keep the good news coming.

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers

OJJ Creates Champion of LA Juvenile Justice Award

Celebration of Change Events Mark Progress of Reforms



OJJ presented the first annual Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award to Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine “Kitty” Kimball, at a Celebration of Change event held at Jetson.

Each facility is hosting a Celebration of Change to recognize past and present employees and stakeholders for their contributions to systemic reform and the transformation of our secure facilities into the therapeutic model. Jetson and Bridge City held their events in October; Swanson’s event will take place in December.

“We wanted to have a way to recognize people who have worked so hard and championed the cause of juvenile justice reform,” **Dr. Mary Livers** said. “We created the Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award, and I can think of no one more deserving of this first annual award than Chief Justice Catherine “Kitty” Kimball.”

Throughout her career, Justice Kimball has championed reform of the state’s juvenile justice system. “Today, we are seen as a progressive model, and we have the tireless efforts many people to thank for our progress, none more dedicated than Justice Kimball,” Dr. Livers said.

Justice Kimball wrote to Dr. Livers thanking OJJ for the award: “I am extremely honored to have been selected as the first recipient of the Louisiana Champion of Juvenile Justice Award....When I read the article in The Advocate about the Jetson Center, I recalled my previous visits...It was very gratifying to read about the many positive changes that have occurred since my visit. Thank you again for this incredible honor.”

The award was announced at Jetson’s Celebration of Change. Although Justice Kimball was unable to attend, a member of her staff received the award, and the following day, Dr. Livers presented the award plaque to Justice Kimball at a JJIC meeting. Two Jetson youth attended the JJIC meeting to read letters they wrote to Justice Kimball thanking her for her efforts on behalf of Louisiana’s youth.



Dr. Livers, left, presented the Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award to Chief Justice Kimball at a JJIC meeting.



Justice Kimball with Jetson youth Dion'te W., left and Daniel P., right, who wrote her letters of appreciation.

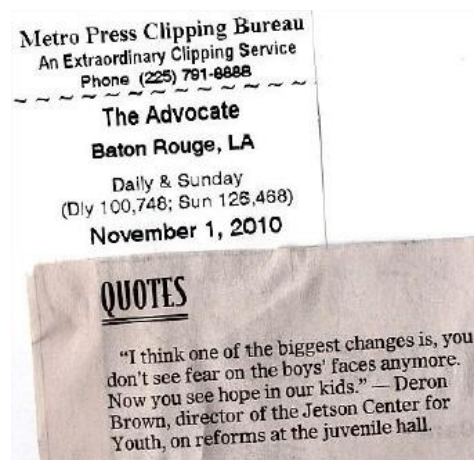
The Jetson event committee outdid themselves by decorating the gym in beautiful fall colors; the luncheon menu featured delicious food prepared by the staff, and the program was inspiring. The youth looked sharp in new uniforms - khaki pants with burgundy polo shirts. A number of retirees who attended were recognized for their contributions to the reform effort. Keynote speaker was **Dr. Calvin Mackie**, whose book *A View from the Roof: Lessons for Life and Business* is being used in our “Get Caught Reading” program.



Jetson's Celebration of Change

Guests included **State Senator/JJIC member Sharon Weston-Broome**; **State Representatives Mack "Bodi" White**, chairman of JJIC; **Dalton Honore**; **Patricia Smith** and **Steve Carter**, **Baker Mayor Harold Rideau**; **EBR Juvenile Court Judge Kathleen Stewart Richey**; **Judge Marilyn Castle** of Lafayette and **Karen Hallstrom** from the LA Supreme Court. Several guests attended from the Governor's Office, including **Assistant Chief of Staff Tammy Woods**, **Communications Director Melissa Sellers**, **Press Secretary Kyle Plotkin** and the entire staff of the Press Office.

Thanks to **Director Daron Brown** and his staff, the youth, and the committee members who worked so hard: **Frances Bailey**, chair, **Gloria Banks**, **Andrea Barnardez**, **Barbara Bell**, **Demetria Sheppard**, **Belinda Thomas**, **Barbara Williams** and **PPO Leslie Jones** from Baton Rouge OJJ.



Bridge City also held its Celebration of Change. **Director Linda London** and her event committee pulled out the stops to decorate the gym in gorgeous fall colors. The food was outstanding, featuring desserts and a fruit display created by **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his Culinary Arts students. The youth were well-dressed in collared dress shirts under pullovers and khaki pants, and several youth ambassadors graciously escorted guests to their tables.



Bridge City's Celebration of Change

Guests included Orleans Parish Juvenile Court **Judge Tracy Fleming-Davillier**, **Ms. Toyin Idewu** from the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, **Kevin Riley**, Supervisor/Chief Probation Officer, DYFS of Plaquemines Parish; **Furusa Passmore**, Rise "N" Shine; **Brenda Johnson**, Houma City Court; **Betty Dufrene** and **June Washington**, Youth Advocate Program. Keynote speaker was **Mr. Bryan Moore**, Director of the New Orleans Office of Workforce Development.

Thanks to the committee members who went the extra mile to present a wonderful event: **Kim Hampton**, chair, **Sharon McClinton**, Mistress of Ceremonies, **Yolanda Page**, **Cherise Gougisha**, **Carolyn Dillon**, **Sharonda Smith**, **Veronica George**, **Darlene Anderson**, **Mary Gatlin**, **Bella Berry**, and **PPO Khristina Koontz** of New Orleans OJJ.

Central Office committee members for all the celebration events are Food Service Director **Alethea Bornes**, Deputy Undersecretary **Marianne Buchanan** and Communications Director **Jerel Giarrusso**, chair.

The Daily Motivator

Live in gratitude

Fear of loss is what creates loss.

What good is it to have something if you constantly live in fear of losing it? In some ways, that's worse than not having it at all.

Instead of living in fear, live in gratitude. Fill your heart with love and thankfulness for all that you now have, so that there is no space left for fear.

Fill your mind with thoughts of the very best of what is possible. Fill your spirit with a bright, sparkling vision of how good you know life can be.

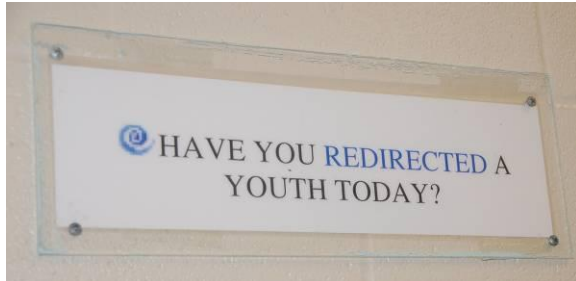
Superficial things will come and go, so don't let those things define you. Treasure the values that transcend every moment and every circumstance.

The genuine person inside is much more powerful than your ego that always feels so threatened.

Live in gratitude and let the real, authentic, courageous person you are, always come shining through.

-- Ralph Marston

"Scene" at Jetson's Scenic Alternative School



Staff Spotlight Spotlight on...



**PPO 3 Fred
Fontenot,
Lake Charles
Regional
Office**

PPO3 Fred Fontenot, Lake Charles OJJ, can relate to the youth in his caseload. By his own admission, he was a typical knuckleheaded kid. "I can recognize a knucklehead. I played around and made mistakes, and I lost a full scholarship to college," Fred said. "My mother and grandfather were very upset with me."

Fred grew up, matured, spent some time in the military, worked offshore as a mudlogger, and was away from home for weeks at a time. Fred went back to school, eventually earning a degree in psychology from LSU in 1996. He considered following in his grandfather's footsteps as a psychiatrist, but found the many years of school and medical training to be daunting.

After graduation, Fred was looking for a job where he could reach his goal - using his education to help others, and took the PET (Civil Service professional entry test). He heard about the position of PPO in Lake Charles, not far from his hometown of Jennings, and took the job. Thirteen years later, Fred is still helping youth and still enjoying the work.

"Fred has been a good employee who is willing to help with anything needed around the office," said **Regional Manager Ann Vick**. "Fred is quick to aid his fellow officer and takes much time encouraging his clients

to change bad behaviors to good ones. Rarely, if ever, is Fred in a poor mood. He laughs a lot.”

PPS Ken Vidrine said that Fred always tries to find something positive in every situation he encounters. “Fred uses this philosophy when dealing with his kids (probationers),” Ken said. “He also is a strong believer in pointing out positive accomplishments with his kids. He often will treat a kid to lunch for accomplishing something positive. He was instrumental in starting a monthly sporting event, where he and other probation officers compete against the residents of Boy’s Village in a game of basketball or baseball. Fred uses this as an opportunity to model good sportsmanlike conduct with the kids. Whenever someone demonstrates inappropriate behavior during the game, they circle up to discuss this and they come up with a positive solution. The results have been remarkable. Most residents look forward to this monthly event.”

“Fred also looks for opportunities to make things more efficient in the office by using his computer skills,” Ken continued. “He has created a special link in JETS that includes office policy, OJJ policy, supervision and placement standards, etc. He has also created a SharePoint document that is linked up with several agencies to process the court docket.”

Fred said a lot of factors motivate him daily. “I enjoy working with the kids. When I find a kid that’s ready to listen, that makes a difference. I try to encourage them, and help them make it. When the kids are ready to do something with their lives, we help them get to a better place. One of the obstacles for our youth can be the pull of the situation they are in.”

Learning the job took about a year, Fred noted. “It took about a year to feel like I got my feet under me.” There’s a lot to learn. Fred has helped new officers learn how to get their jobs done, and to that end, he created a checklist of to-do items and a library of documents and forms needed by PPOs. It is

placed in a central location, on SharePoint, so that staff can access the information. Though the information is specific to Lake Charles OJJ, anyone can access it by clicking this link: <http://oydcosps/LakeCharles/Shared%20Documents/PPO%20Stuff/1%20A%20PPO%20to%20do.doc>

The blue links are in outline form, Fred said, and it’s easy to expand and find other resources linked to the original document. SharePoint made it easier to find the information and documents, Fred said. “I believe in using technology to make our jobs easier,” he noted.

Fred served in the Army, and spent 10 years in the National Guard. He said he learned a little French at home, but he was taught the French language by the military. Fred trained as an Army linguist at the Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, California, and helped to interrogate French-speaking prisoners of war and other individuals educated in France. “The French colonies expanded across the globe, and many of the people of interest were educated in France and are fluent in the language,” Fred said. “In fact, my teacher was Vietnamese.”

“I enjoyed the military – it straightened me out,” Fred said.

“We don’t have many kids who are really “bad” – but they have to learn that criminal activity is not just baby stuff anymore,” Fred continued. “We have to take things one day at a time. Our job is to get the kids to the services. We can’t make sure they benefit from those services – like the saying ‘you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make them drink.’ We have to hope they get thirsty and start drinking.”

“Some kids turn their lives around; it doesn’t happen often but it’s great when you hear about a kid that does well,” Fred said. “I had a kid who messed up and stole cars from people. He thought insurance would cover the damages, but he learned the hard way

what he had done people when someone stole his car. He did well and became a nurse.”

Sometimes a PPO is the only good role model that youth have, Fred said. “We often lead by example and the kids can see how life can be. I was not much different when I was young. I’d sneak out of the house at night. In the long run I learned my lesson, that consequences follow.”

Kids have to learn to respect the punishment given for their behavior. “There has got to be a happy medium. If there are too many restrictions or we are too harsh with kids, the punishment loses its effectiveness. There needs to be a carrot and stick approach, with negative and positive reinforcement. The first thing you learn in psychology is to work toward reinforcement,” Fred said.

“We give kids consequences because we care,” Fred continued. “Most of my kids know that I care about them, but when there are court-ordered sanctions, you have to make them follow the orders of the court. The kids learn that they are responsible for the choices they make on their own. We have a limited time with them – we can guide them and help them. But to make effective changes, it has to come from them. They have to have buy-in, and they have to be willing to accept guidance.”

Kids need to learn that poor choices and behavior is just a bad idea. “They have to get to that point, and know why their choices are wrong, not just because the law says so but because over the long term you have a better life,” Fred said.

In Lake Charles there is a lot of emphasis on the JSOTP sex offender program, Fred said. There is a lot of counseling to make sure the offenders understand and have empathy for their victims. “If they don’t understand empathy, it’s just going to happen again,” Fred noted. “We go through several models in the JSOTP program. The youth have to write empathy letters to their victims and they

have to respond to their own letters to get a clear understanding of how the cycle works.”

If a sex offender is under the age of 14, according to Fred, they have probably found pornographic materials belonging to an adult or were molested themselves. “Sex offenders find it hard to control their behavior and to stop. I believe that pornographic material should be locked away from kids in the same way that we lock up guns,” he said.

The way that we change people is to teach them the process, especially kids, Fred said.

A lifelong resident of Louisiana, Fred has been married for 17 years to his wife Tonya, who works for State Police, Troop D. The couple has two children, daughter Kylie, 15, and son Jude, 12. “We have several rent houses, so my free time is usually spent doing renovations,” Fred chuckled. But he does spend time going to movies and to parks with his kids. And, Fred enjoys keeping up with several old friends across the country via Facebook.

“Working here, I can see actually see the benefits of this job,” Fred said. “I would rather make less money doing something I enjoy than more money doing something I don’t like.”

If you are an avid reader of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*, you have seen Fred Fontenot’s name often – he goes the extra mile to serve his community and his agency. Fred sees value in our kids and provides guidance to give them hope for a better life – he exemplifies the meaning of meeting the mission every day.

Transitions...Comings and Goings....**New Faces**

Central Office Shanna Magee – HR Analyst

Bridge City Center for Youth

Jeanfritz Cadet – JJS 1

Sterling Fleming – JJS 2

Vanessa Gordon – JJS 2

Flavya Reeves-Monnet – JJS 2

Ashley Robinson – JJS 2

Erich Smith – JJS 2

Selena Verrett – JJS 2

Kimberly Winston – JJS 1

Baton Rouge Courtney Dickerson – PPO 1

Jetson Center for Youth

Paula Cage – Corr. Dietetics Manager

Shreveport

Ashly Drexler – Clerical Assistant

Promotions**Bridge City Center for Youth**

Leticia Green - JJS 5

David Jenkins - JJS 5

Emily Williams- Train/Dev Prog Manager

Jetson Center for Youth

Melvin Carter - JJS 4

Swanson Center for Youth

Terrance Walker - JJS 5

Retirements**Bridge City Center for Youth**

Aline Williams – 24 years

Robert Rodriguez – 22 years

Clarence Pierce – 20 years

Jetson Center for Youth

William Green – 23 years

Swanson Center for Youth

Rebecca Hawkins – 21 years

Dexter Jackson – 10 years

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

A.2.16 No Smoking & Tobacco Free

8/23/10

A.2.61 Pre-Employment Exams 10/29/10

A.3.1 Asset Management 10/7/10

A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies & Equipment
10/18/10

A.3.9 Special Funds 10/18/10

A.5.1 Access to and Use of Information
Technology Resources 8/17/10

A.7.1 Safety Plan 10/8/10

B.2.14 Secure Care SAVRY Policy 10/6/10

B.6.4 Accident and Injury (A&I)

Evaluations 9/1/10

C.1.8 Firearms Training 9/14/10

D.9.5 Service Delivery/Case Management
9/28/10

D.10.3 Assignment of Cases, Reports and
Other Activities 9/28/10

D.10.17 Probation and Parole Violations
9/28/10

Policies Rescinded:

A.5.2 Access to and Use of Computers
Assigned to Employees 8/17/10

Lafayette OJJ Heroes Assist Injured Person

While traveling to the Motivational Interview training in Baton Rouge on August 26, PPOs **Kristi Eames, Tracy Flores and Deacon Jones** witnessed a FedEx truck on the westbound lane of I-10 run off the road and hit a tree. The impact was hard enough to break the tree in half.

All three ran across the median to check on the driver. They found the driver lying on the ground tossing and turning. PPO Eames was first to determine, through visual indicators, that the driver was alive. PPO Flores stated that he was in and out of consciousness. PPOs Eames and Jones called 911 and waited until EMS arrived. PPO Jones kept the man calm until help arrived. He said the driver wanted to get up but they assured him that he would be OK. When the first paramedics arrived, it was a crew that was on another call. They

evaluated the situation to determine if the driver was in worse condition than their patient. PPO Jones assisted them throughout their evaluation. A short time later, the assigned crew arrived.

The PPOs continued to assist until the driver was stabilized. The PPOs remained at the scene until law enforcement arrived. **PPS Joey Denais** said, "In a time when some witness accidents but keep traveling, it is good to know our three OJJ employees chose to act."

Staff Development News

By Fran Martin, Staff Development Director

Juvenile Justice Certificate Information Presented

A meeting was held on October 20 at OJJ central office to provide information to staff about college programs in juvenile and criminal justice offered through Northshore Technical College-Florida Parishes Campus and Southern University. Approximately 50 facility, regional office and central office staff attended, as well as community providers.



Staff listen as the Juvenile Justice Certificate program is explained.

Representatives from the college and university provided information on their programs, including the Juvenile Justice Certificate program. Financial aid options and OJJ incentives for completing the Certificate program were also discussed. Students and instructors from the Certificate program shared their experiences with the

group and encouraged others to consider taking classes.

A similar informational and recruitment meeting with Delta Community College in Monroe and other colleges and universities may be planned soon. Information on these meetings will be forwarded when plans are finalized.

LA MOD Training Presented for Community Providers

Earlier this year, staff and trainers from residential centers serving OJJ youth attended a LA MOD Blitz to learn the basic concepts of the Louisiana Model of therapeutic, youth-centered services. Following the Blitz, over 50 staff trainers from the residential centers participated in a five-day training of all LA MOD classes during the months of June through August. The purpose of the training was to emphasize a consistent treatment philosophy based on positive relationships in all settings that provide residential services to our OJJ youth in the community.

The LA MOD training consists of 10 classes on a variety of topics, including Professional Boundaries, Verbal Crisis Intervention, Group Dynamics and Problem vs. Symptoms. After attending the 10 classes, Training for Trainers was scheduled to provide specific ideas and techniques for teaching the classes. Staff attending the training will schedule and train their residential center staff over the next few months. They are very excited about sharing the information with the staff in their centers.

OJJ trainers providing the LA MOD training included **Nancy Gautreau, Arlona Wells-Morgan, Annette Arthur, Fouad Harb, Angela Bridgewater** and **Fran Martin and Susan Taylor**, previously with LSUHSC.

OJJ will continue to provide technical assistance and refresher training to the residential center trainers as they incorporate the LA MOD training into their programming for OJJ youth in their care.

News from Donaldsonville AMIkids



On October 6 AMIkids Donaldsonville students travelled with Charlie Brooks, Director of Operations, to the Gonzales Civic Center to hear Gov. Bobby Jindal speak. Pictured are Charlie Brooks, Director of Operations, Rep. Elton Aubert, Taylon S., Joseph C., Damian D., Dre L. and Gov. Jindal, right.

In observance of Red Ribbon Week in October, AMIkids Donaldsonville built a wall against drugs - brick by brick.

Pictured below: Two students from AMIkids Donaldsonville wrote their name on a brick pledging to remain drug free. Below: Office of Juvenile Justice Probation Officer Ms. Heidi writes her name on a brick supporting AMIkids Donaldsonville's wall.



Thibodaux Regional Office

By PPO Allison Lirette

Congratulations to **Probation and Parole Officer Keith Kotoski, Employee of the Month** for August. He has been a member of the OJJ family since June 2006. Keith came to Thibodaux OJJ from Lake Charles OJJ in 2007. He is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux. Keith is an extraordinary probation officer. He has a unique sense of humor that we all enjoy.

We also got to celebrate **Regional Manager Angela T. Koenig's** special day. We surprised her by having a special "Sixty-Something" Birthday Party to celebrate her birthday with a super-delicious cake.



Angela displays her special cake.

Congratulations to **Probation and Parole Officer, Herman Matherne, Employee of the Month** for September. He has been a member of the OJJ family since 2007.

Herman came to Thibodaux OJJ from the Nicholls State University Police Department. He started NSU at two days after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. He originally worked for a company located on the 3rd floor of Jax Brewery in New Orleans. The company was displaying old shipwreck treasures. The Grand Opening was the Friday of the weekend Katrina hit. Grand Opening...Grand Closing..all within three days. Herman was thankful that he had an application in with NSU and accepted the job the following Wednesday. He was promoted after 6 months to the rank of Police Sergeant where he

remained at that position until he transferred to OJJ. Herman is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux. Herman is an extraordinary probation officer. He has a wonderful sense of humor.

We also got to celebrate Boss' Day in honor of **Regional Manager Angela T. Koenig's** special day. The luncheon menu consisted of spaghetti, garlic bread and salad...along with cheesecake for dessert.

Motivational Interviewing Training was conducted for the Probation Officers at TOJJ. Thanks to instructors **PPO James Percle**, **PPO Lori Babin** and **PPO Allison Lirette**.



We wish a warm welcome back to **PPO Heidi Brown McElroy** from maternity leave. Heidi and her husband, **Dustin**, welcomed a little girl, **Monroe Alcee McElroy**, on August 2, 2010. Monroe weighed 5 lbs. 15 oz and was 18" long. Congratulations Dustin and Heidi.

As mid-term elections approached, the daughter of one of Thibodaux OJJ's PPOs was asked by her teacher what she would do if she were the President of the United States. This was the written response of the 9 ½ year old, "If I were President I would buy 1 million pets. I would re-paint the white house lime green and purple. I would invent a hat that when you put it on you get all the learning you need. I would buy the Mall of Louisiana. Buy 1 thousand pairs of shoes. I would also buy Rue 21 ! That's what I would do if I were President. By: President Alaina." The PO wanted to share this with everyone because in the midst of all the chaos going on in this world, it is nothing like hearing a little kid's perspective to lighten things a bit.

Tallulah Regional Office

PPO2 Fred Laing competed in the monthly pistol match at the Howard Prince Memorial Gun Range at Oak Grove in August and won First Place in the unlimited (high capacity semi-auto) class. He was presented with a plaque for winning First Place in their April match in the same class.

Tallulah OJJ honored our "bosses" on Bosses' Day in October with a wonderful meal and gifts. Pictured are **AC Patricia Dense**, **RM Ruth Stephens**, **PPS Johnnie Bowman** and **PPS Margo Corulla**.



In September, **PPOs Truett Glass** and **Fred Laing** attended CEEP (Critical Employees Emergency Planning) training at Shreveport Police/Fire Training Center. Information they learned will be shared with other Tallulah OJJ staff.

Also in September, **PPO Fred Laing**, POST Firearms Instructor, spent a week on the firearms range at Zachary with the Probation & Parole POST Academy. Several OJJ officers attended this academy class. PPO Laing was impressed with the quality of training provided by the adult P&P instructors, and the emphasis they place on firearms safety. "I really enjoyed the week assisting Instructors Terry Bridges & Derik Ellis, Director Marie Toups and 'Uncle Bill' Corkern." said Laing, "I learned a lot that week, Adult P & P has an excellent firearms training program."

Regional Manager Ruth Stephens and **PPO Fred Laing** attended the MST luncheon in October at the Cognitive Development Center in Monroe. They met with the staff and invited the newly hired area counselor to speak with the OJJ-Tallulah staff. MST has established an office in Winnsboro and Tallulah.

Tallulah OJJ and National Mentors were on the “case” Monday night when the duty officer received a call advising that a youth had not returned to his Mentor Home from school. All parties were notified including the local police. The duty person, knowing that one of Tallulah’s PPOs volunteered with the basketball program, suggested that the police to contact him, as he may have information. Doing so, they found the youth at the school gym with the PPO having qualified for the basketball team. The youth had forgotten to let the Mentor parent know he would be staying late for this event. We could not be too upset with the youth, as this one had a happy ending.

Swanson Center for Youth

SWPBS Kicks off New School Year

The School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) team at Southside Alternative High School is kicking off the new school year in a positive way. School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) is nationally recognized and utilized throughout Louisiana school as a response to the Louisiana Legislature’s Juvenile Justice Reform act 1225 of 2003. The Act directed schools to develop plans to improve behavior and discipline, utilizing positive behavioral supports and other effective disciplinary tools for supporting student behavior and discipline.

Swanson adopted the ROSE (Respect Others, Self and Environment) motto and the students are given ROSE tickets when they are “caught being good.” It is a positive reward system not only creating a positive climate in the school, but also teaching social skills in the process.

The team hopes to identify problem areas of the school, students in need of extra support and reward all students for appropriate behavior. When implemented, it improves the school climate, increases safety, improves academic progress, and decreases behavior problems. The school creates a positive learning environment, rather than just a punitive response to inappropriate behavior.



SWPBS Team members left to right: Deon Jiles, Rukiya Manuel, Carolyn Jones, Jayme Smith, Michael Fontana, Deborah Herrington, Theresa McNease and Patricia Williams. Not shown is Sharon Lee.

The group plans to have a drawing of the “good behavior” ROSE tickets at each monthly assembly. They have many plans for the future to encourage the youth to always be ready to be “caught being good.”

The SWPBS Team has already hosted their 3rd Honor Roll Party. At each party, the participants enjoyed a special treat. In September the party was even more special, as it was the first time to honor the highest ROSE ticket earners for SWPBS. The team provided each of the 60+ students making the Honor Roll a Certificate of Achievement. Those students receiving a 4.0 grade point average received special recognition. The top six ROSE ticket earners received a special SWPBS Certificate. They all enjoyed pizza, drinks, and snack cakes.

The number of students making the honor roll has steadily increased since implementing the Honor Roll Party in April, 2010.

Members of the SWPBS Team are **Deon Jiles, Rukiya Manuel, Carolyn Jones, Jayme Smith, Michael Fontana, Deborah Herrington, Theresa McNease, Patricia Williams and Sharon Lee**, all instructors at Southside.

Congratulations on Retirement

The Recreation Department along with staff from other departments threw a farewell potluck lunch for **Recreation Therapist Vincent Butcher**. Before the lunch, Recreation staff presented Coach Butcher with a picture and a card.



Butcher farewell: Recreation Therapists Willie Newell, Eric Hanley, Vincent Butcher and Gwen Gene.

LA MOD Class is Largest Ever

In September, Swanson had one of the largest (if not the largest) LA MOD classes yet. The class consisted of 22 new hires and 8 existing staff. During the graduation ceremony, **JJS1 Toyon Banks** shared a poem he wrote about LAMOD entitled "A Journey Not a Trip."



Swanson's largest LA MOD class.

"A Journey Not a Trip"

By Toyon Banks

Sometimes in life you don't get a break, and
the youth makes mistakes
But the kids, is it fair to them to fault?
But to be honest and tell the truth, it's better
to build the youth
Than to wait later and have to repair the
adult!

And so positive partnerships we share, to
create a quality system of care
Making youth responsible citizens is our
Vision
Safe and effective services we provide, and to
protect the public we try
Turning them into law abiding citizens is our
mission!

We have to do these kids a favor and simply
not attack the behavior
Instead find the underlying problem and listen
Most of the children didn't have a choice,
with no discipline to reinforce
And the problem is, they're just yearning for
attention!

See a difference we have to make, and we
have to make them feel safe
Many didn't have a choice and so they are
afraid
They need rehabilitation, from a negative to
positive situation
To ultimately avoid Angola or Wade

This task will have complications, faced with
multiple situations
But we have to learn to be resistant
In order for this to happen, we must possess a
passion
All while being fair, firm and consistent

Yes, the road may be long and hard, with
more prayers known to God
But it's a must and our duty with youth to
walk this path with
We have to know and play our role because in
the end the ultimate goal
Is to establish trust, security and attachment

We have to love and nurture them, even if
staff and resources are slim
Still a change we have to make with this
It's not about power and control, labeling
them dumb or slow
Instead building a positive relationship

Even if actions are questionable, we must
have courage that's professional
At all times even if it's hard
Commitment to change we're dedicated,
safety at all times demonstrated
Exemplifying the treatment of LAMOD

The children are a part of our community and
it certainly takes all of our unity
Swanson consistently tries to learn me
And no, we can't save them all; some will
learn to stand while others fall
But our goal is not a trip, but instead a
journey.

Shreveport Regional Office

Shreveport OJJ's Employees of the Month
for September were **PPO Fabrecia Roberson**
and **PPO Jennifer Hill**. Both were recognized
for having the highest contact percentages in
the local annual audit

Restorative Justice

Shreveport OJJ recognized Suicide Prevention
Month. **RM Kristi Martin** and **PS Jan Crain**
gave a presentation at AMI Red River on the
warning signs of suicide and suicide
prevention. Youth were also given "Yellow
Ribbon" cards which can be presented to staff
any time that they need to talk to someone or
need help.

Training and Development

Supervisory staff attended training at SCY.

RM Martin attended a Regional Manager's
meeting held in the Lafayette office.

PPS Mitchell Lane and **PPOs** participated in
reclassification staffings for youth at SCY.

PS Jan Crain and **PPO Kristen McKee**
attended Liaison Training for Community
Programs in the Monroe Office.

RM Kristi Martin and **PS Todd Carlisle**
attended a meeting for SAVRY instructors in
the Lafayette office.

Supervisory staff participated in a webinar
sponsored by the National Institute of
Corrections entitled "Self Directed Skills for
Supervisors".

RM Kristi Martin participated in a webinar
sponsored by Georgetown University entitled
"Updating the System of Care Concept."

PPO Natalie Pope, PPO Daniel Barnard,
PPO Todd Carlisle, PPS Steve Martino, PPS
Guy May, PPO Charles Herrmann, and PPO
Jennifer Hill attended "Critical Employee
Emergency Planning" training held at the
Shreveport Fire and Police Academy.

RM Martin attended CPTP classes entitled
"Manager's Role in Succession Planning" and
"Strategies for Supervisory Success".

PPS Kim Scott, PS Jan Crain, PPS Guy
May, and PPO John Whitlock attended the
North LA Planning Board Summit.

RM Martin attended the Caddo Youth and
Children Planning Board Meeting.

Quality Assurance Audits

The semi-annual quality assurance audit of
Rutherford House was conducted by **PS**
Crain, PPS Martino, Education Specialist,
Debra Franklin, SSC Nelda Graham, and
PPO John Whitlock.

The semi-annual quality assurance audit of
Goodwill Reintegration Program was
conducted by **PS Jan Crain** and **PPO Todd**
Carlisle.

Staff Attend Juvenile Justice Summit

PPS Todd Carlisle and **PPS Ladner** attended the Juvenile Justice Summit sponsored by the LA Association of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, the Fourth Judicial District Court, and the LDAA. The Summit was held in Monroe.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Off to the Academy!

In September PPOS **Carl Miller**, **Joshua Mc Manus** and **Douglas Black** packed their gear and headed straight to the POST Academy. Wow! Information yields that the guys have already received qualifying scores on the range, and we know that completing the Academy's requirements and specifications will be a sure shot for them also.



PPO Stanley Schofield keeps marching right along in his quest to educate, motivate and stimulate. He

appeared in the Bastrop Daily Enterprise on September, 4, 2010 about a speech that he had given in September to the students of Morehouse Junior High and Delta High Schools. The article indicated that, "Schofield encouraged the young men with his humor but also imparted some wisdom and gave them a charge. He told them that manhood is a never ending process and that a true man is a provider."

Who Dat! Who Dat!

As a show of solidarity, the OJJ "Who Dat" crew had an early kick off celebration in September. Black and Gold were sprinkled everywhere and the excitement, in hopes of a much anticipated victory, floated through the

air in high spirited style. And you already know how the story ended, the Saints conquered the Vikings. Hooray!!



Black and

Gold at New Orleans OJJ



Daniel Griffin Retires

A soldier has left the battlefield, but he encouraged others to continue to fight in order to overcome the challenges encountered in assisting, leading and directing the youth of this community into becoming productive, law abiding citizens. **Daniel Gillin**, after 30 dedicated years of service, retired his sword and shield.

A celebration was held in Dan's honor, where he was presented with a memorabilia book stuffed with photos, along with heartfelt wishes and comments from staff. In addition, Dan was given a cherry wood boater's clock



which reflected his years of service, the state seal, his name and Region 1.

A crucial organizer of this phenomenal event, **PPO Evalina Lestrick**, put on the ritz with linen table cloths and fancy decorations. But the crème de la crème happened when Evalina belted out the lyrics to "Oh Danny Boy." The words rumbled

from her soul as the rendition, itself, silenced the audience and ignited a jovial, memorable smile upon Dan's face.

Thanks! Evalina for the experience of a lifetime! Never give up!



Daniel Gillen is feted at his retirement.

AMIKids Visit the Insectarium

In September students from AMI-kids Jefferson were off to embrace experimental education at the Insectarium. A student climbed into and out of an earthworm burrowing hole while another encased himself in some old ancient Chinese warrior armor. Lastly, students feasted upon scrumptious worms. That's right, the wiggly kind.



The worm hole



Ancient armor

So, the students weren't the only ones having fun. Check out **Ms. Kim Ussin**, center stage, whose head is enclosed in a plastic bubble. I'm told that this is an area that roaches love

to frequent. However, if you peer closely at the picture, you will notice that Ms. Ussin had some roach spray near by. That's what I like, a proactive teacher.



Miss Kim Ussin

A Case With a Happy Ending

The case of C. Deer was assigned to **PPO Vera Seals**. Tremendous situational challenges were prominent upon contact. Problems mounted while solutions shrunk and confusion cluttered one's view. This is descriptive of the original painting that was portrayed to PPO Seals; chipped, torn and scrapped. But, the picture is being carefully refurbished.

C. Deer is now gainfully employed. As a matter of fact, she works at a fast food restaurant and also models part time. C. Deer recently modeled in a prominent hair show. In addition, C. Deer is enrolled in school and having only minor adjustment problems in her home environment.

The above situation is fuel to continue on the journey. No matter how rough the terrain maybe or how winding or steep the roads may become, you must endure until you reach the highest peak.

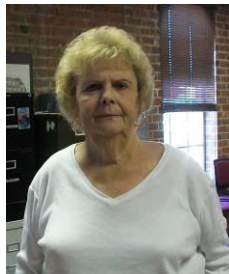
Dat's All Folks from Who Dat City!!

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



SSC4 Nelda Graham was selected **Employee of the Month** for September.

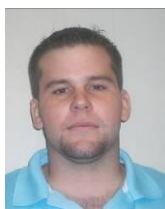


Employee of the Month for October was **AC3 Virginia LeVasseur**.

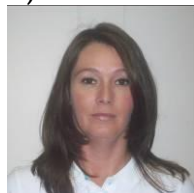
PPS Simon Sarpy placed second in the #3 class, at The Coors Challenge, in Fort Worth, TX. PPS Sarpy qualified for the USTPA World Championships held in Monroe, LA, at the IKE Hamilton arena, in October.

Megan Sarpy, the daughter of PPO Brenda Sarpy, competed in the Little Miss Black Heritage Pageant in October.

Welcome Aboard



Natchitoches OJJ welcomes **PPO Todd Roszell**, left, and **Rachal Martin, WAE Transport**, below.



In October staff attended and enjoyed the Fall Festival held at Ware Youth Center Group Home.

Monroe Regional Office



On September 15, **PPO3 Hannah Dozier and husband Ron** welcomed **Payton McKenna** (7 lbs. 5 oz.) to their family. Congratulations

Hannah and Ron. She is BEAUTIFUL!

Training Events Held

Monroe OJJ Supervisors attended training on Workplace Ethics held at the Public Safety Building in Monroe. **PPS Linda Williams** assisted in the development and presentation of the training. Good Job Linda!

PPS Orlando Davis and **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** conducted Booster Training for our newer field staff. Those participating were **PPO1 Garner Brass**, **PPO1 Amanda Wilhite**, **PPO1 Valerie Nordstrom**, **PPO1 Gregory Colvin**, **PPO1 Jeremy Fox** and **PPO1 Mark Miller**.

PPS Karl Wallace conducted Supervisor's Safety Training for **RM Patty Newman** and all Monroe OJJ Supervisors.

RM Patty Newman attended the CPTP Training, Conducting an Effective Job Interview, held at ULM.

RM Patty Newman and Monroe OJJ hosted Provider Liaison Training attended by staff from Monroe OJJ, Tallulah OJJ, Shreveport OJJ and Natchitoches OJJ. The training was conducted by **Program Manager Melba Oubre**.

PPS Linda Williams and **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** attended a SAVRY Instructor Meeting held at Lafayette OJJ. **PPO1 Mark Miller** has volunteered to serve on a committee to revise the SAVRY PDI form. **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** will co-chair the committee.

Monroe OJJ Firearm Instructors **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPS Karl Wallace** and **PPS Gail Wilson** conducted POST annual requalification at the Richland Parish Range (in 100+ degree weather). The following officers shot qualifying scores: **PPS Linda Williams**, **PPO2 Jeremy Keyes**, **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**, **PPS Gail Wilson**, **PPO3 Joel McNair**, **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**, **PPO3 Janice Wheelis**, and **PPO3 Willie Hunter**. GOOD JOB GUYS!

Members of the Monroe OJJ Emergency Response Team attended Critical Employee Emergency Preparedness Training held at the Shreveport Police Academy. Those attending from Monroe were **PPO3 Jackie Kindrix**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO3 Janice Wheelis**, **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**, **PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO3 David McMillan**. The training was conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice. All of us at Monroe OJJ appreciate the officers who have volunteered to serve on our Emergency Response Team. THANK YOU!

In September the Joint Juvenile Justice Summit, hosted by the La. Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, the Fourth Judicial District Court, and the La. District

Attorneys Association, was held at ULM. **Dr. Mary Livers** was one of the guest speakers. Monroe OJJ was represented by **RM Patty Newman**, **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPS Gail Wilson**, **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes**, **PPO2 Steve Pelfrey**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPO1 Jeremy Fox**, **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle**, **PPO2 Jeremy Keyes** and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**.

Lake Charles Regional Office

In September **RM Ann Vick**, **PPO3 Fred Fontenot**, **PPO2 Hollie Comeaux**, **PPO Jeff Haley**, and **PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** volunteered a weekend time to help with the S.P.I.C.Y. (Suicide Prevention Intervention Coal for Youth) fund-raising walk. **PPO Jeff Haley** also brought a probationer from Cameron Parish to participate as part of his restorative justice. **Jeff** and **Fred** helped along the walk and did anything else they could do. **Hollie**, **Rebecca**, and **Ann** contributed greatly with registration. There were over 200 registered walkers!

Thanks to **CWA Erline Pierce** & **PPS Ken Vidrine** for their donations and financial support of the SPICY Walk.



Jeff Haley with his Cameron Parish youth.



Yellow balloons being prepared for release - each containing a name of person who committed suicide.

Thanks...

During September **PPS Ken Vidrine** and **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** voluntarily attended a 40-hour C.I.T. (Crisis Intervention Training) presented by Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.

PPS Melissa Cross, PPO Delisa Clark and **PPO Alexis Heflin** attended the McNeese State University Career Fair in September to recruit interns and potential employees. This improved community relations and gets us out in the public.

RM Ann Vick and **PPS Melissa Cross** conducted a training session for the Working Together for Families core team to renew commitment to this OJJ/DCFS/Parish Probation collaboration, which began in 2006.

PPO Jeff Haley held a conference with a kid who was accused of (and admitted that he was) bullying others. The kid seemed to have a very positive response to his meeting with Jeff.

PPO Delisa Clark encourages the youth in her caseload to strive for success. One youth in Delisa's caseload is doing well in his mentor home and in school; he had a few setbacks but is still showing overall improvement.

PPO Monet Newman has continued to represent our agency at various committee meetings. She encouraged her client's heart through a personal visit to Jetson. Monet celebrated the YCP graduation and positive accomplishments of her youth, CB. She continues to improve the Shoplifting Program she created for Beauregard Parish and has decided to incorporate a pre-test and post-test to gauge learning and retention of information. Monet is training our office on the SAVRY and continues to provide ongoing training for SAVRY. Further, she attended the At-Risk staffings in the absence of PPS Vidrine and managed to offer alternatives to OJJ custody for the staffed cases.

PPO Alexis Heflin worked extensively with the family of KR and allowed the family to call her home many times during night and evening hours so that she could assist them through crisis. She did all she could and offered support to prevent KR's return to custody.

PPO Ronald Gilchrist encouraged his client's heart through a personal visit to Jetson. He even volunteered to conduct a transport late on a Friday afternoon.

PPO Jeff Haley conducted several Saturday transports to assist our office, in addition to his Saturday participation in the SPICY walk.

PPO Hollie Comeaux has been very proactive in the case of JC. She worked to obtain clothes for this homeless young lady. She held WTF staffings and collaborated with DCFS frequently.

PPO Angie Stevens worked to recognize the efforts of a youth in her caseload and succeeded in helping him earn an early release from supervision.

RM Ann Vick has held many provider meetings, CSOM meetings, WTF meetings, staff meetings, and effected a Stay-in-Day meeting. She attends more meetings, including all regional Planning Board Meetings, SPF SIG Substance Abuse Coalition, ISCs, and Central Office meetings. Ann constantly thinks of how one service may be linked to another existing service for greater outcomes. She continues to make sure the needs of the office are met, such as overseeing the purchasing of 2011 calendars and all other needs. RM Vick continues to be a sounding board for her employees.

CWA Erline Pierce and **CWA Annette Stoddard** attended several trainings in September and offered a training for our staff regarding new payroll policies.

CWA Annette Stoddard and **Transport Officer Corey Harmon** worked hard to prepare our vehicles for emergency preparedness.

PPO Garrick Chambers and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** have volunteered personal time on weekends to take kids to basketball and football games as a reward for youth accomplishments. **PPO Chambers** also continues to seek firearms instructor opportunities and is hoping to attend training soon.

THANK YOU to all Tier 1 response team volunteers: **Fred, Ken, Ronald, Garrick, Jeff, Angie** and **Rebecca**.

PPO Rebecca Harmon continues to work hard on her caseload daily and she contributes positively to office morale. Rebecca aspires to attend firearms instructor training and is hopeful her request will be fulfilled. Rebecca volunteers her time with middle-school aged children at her church, and she even offered information regarding community resources to aid a young girl (a fellow church member) who was being abused by a relative. She monitors our drug screen inventory, and often troubleshoots JETS / IT issues.

As of October 28, **PPS Ken Vidrine** celebrated 14 years of OJJ service.

On October 21, 2010, **PPO Angie Stevens** celebrated a big birthday in October. She is BEAUTIFUL inside and out! We are jealous - Angie does not look her age! Thank you to **PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** for the delicious birthday cake and for making Angie feel special on her special day!

The Lake Charles staff honored **RM Ann Vick**, **PPS Melissa Cross** and **PPS Ken Vidrine** for Boss's Day through the presentation of group-signed cards and appreciation gift cards. The supervisors were surprised and sooooo grateful! **The truest**

gift for the Lake Charles supervisors is the amazing group of people in this office. We are so blessed with incredible staff!

We are extremely grateful for the health of our employees. We had three beloved individuals who recently needed surgery, and all three individuals have recovered well. One employee has a pending surgery scheduled, and we are already praying for her speedy recovery and safe return to work!

PPO2 Garrick Chambers and his wife, Jonn, learned that their bundle of joy expected in the Spring of 2011 is a baby boy!

The Lake Charles office expresses our thanks and gratitude to **Simon Sarpy** and **Stanley Cook** of Natchitoches OJJ for volunteering a day from their busy schedules to inspect and certify our weapons for the year.

PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist and **PPO2 Garrick Chambers** took three probationers to a college football game (Oklahoma vs. ULL) in Lafayette in October.

PPO3 Karli Pullard volunteered for an 8-hour Sunday transport to bring two girls to YCP on 10-10-10. Thank you, Karli!

PPO2/J Garrick Chambers was complimented for training **Karli** and **Delisa** on cleaning of their new weapons, and Garrick was complimented for the overall cleaning of Alexis's weapon.

Thank you to **PPO3 Monet Newman**, for preparing a SAVRY training sheet and for presenting much needed SAVRY training in October. Monet is approachable daily regarding SAVRY questions and her assistance has been called upon by every employee within the office!

Thank you to **PPO3 Karli Pullard** for organizing the screen printing, overseeing the purchase, and the eventual successful delivery of P&P tee shirts.

PPO2 Hollie Comeaux organized and participated in several Working Together for Families staffings to advocate for a homeless probationer.

Thank you to **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** for all of his contributions to SharePoint and for maintaining everyone's access to this useful tool.

RM Ann Vick is being locked up to raise money for "Jerry's kids" and the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). She needs to raise bail by November 18.

In October **RM Ann Vick** and **PPO3 Delisa Clark** attended a NAMI presentation/training, titled "Break the Silence," to learn more about mental health related issues and resources.

PPO Jeff Haley has shown great personal investment in the juveniles he supervises and the parish to which he is assigned. Jeff possesses a great attitude and never shies away from a challenging case. Jeff believes in the Trackers Program and has done an excellent job of identifying appropriate referrals and keeping the slots in his parish filled.

Lake Charles OJJ completed an Internal Audit during the month of October.

We are having monthly Stay-in-Days on the first day of the month to have a special staff meeting and to enjoy a meal as a staff group. **Fred** cooked some amazing red beans and rice for the August/September stay-in-day. **Garrick** cooked a delicious chicken and sausage gumbo for October's meeting. And, **Alexis** will cook an etouffee for the November stay-in-day. All others bring wonderful goodies to support the main course! *(And, we must give some credit to the **MOTHERS/GRANDMOTHERS of Fred, Garrick, and Alexis** as they all helped "their babies" cook these meals!*

We want to recognize **the males in this office** who frequently spend a great deal of time on the road with all of our probationers and for the one-on-one conversations and redirections of negative thoughts that occur during those transports. Keep "grinding it out!" We appreciate you.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Welcome

We welcomed three new members to our family. **PPOs Josh Brown, Lakaisha Lewis,** and **Seth Richard** started their OJJ journeys in October. We wish them the best of luck, and hope they feel among friends at OJJ.

Iberia Parish **PPO Kevin Broussard** helped organize and judge the Teurlings High School annual speech & debate tournament in October. PPO Broussard debated in high school, making the all-state team as a senior, and volunteers as a coach for the Abbeville High School speech & debate team. PPO Broussard also volunteers as a judge at Acadiana-area tournaments.



Iberia Parish **PPO Cassandra Gardiner** gave a presentation geared toward the prevention of bullying to the students, faculty, and parents of Evangeline Elementary in New Iberia. Parent Involvement Coordinator **Bridget Lindon** said the presentation will help the school "to maintain an environment for all of our students that is safe, responsible, and respected." Local television station KATC was on hand for the event, and interviewed PPO Gardiner.

The Lafayette Region completed CPR recertification in October. Many thanks to the Lafayette Region's firearms instructors, Iberia **PPO Bret Gould** and **PPS Courtney Holderman**, for taking time out of their busy schedules to teach the class for officers and supervisors transitioning from revolvers to Glocks, and getting them certified with their firearms.

Farewell

Lafayette OJJ bid farewell to **AC3 Cecile Schexnider**, who retired in September after 20 years of service with the state. First thing on her agenda is a trip to Germany to visit her son. Cecile's selflessness and positive attitude will be greatly missed. The Lafayette Office sent Cecile off with a surprise party.



Cecile, arriving at her party.

Play Ball!

The Lafayette Region put together a softball team, and participated in the Doin' It For Dave Tournament in September at Scott Park in Scott. The tournament was a benefit for **Dave DeRoussel's** battle with esophageal cancer. The B'Attitudes, led by team captain **George Hebert**, put up a valiant effort, but did not triumph in the tournament. There were score keepers at the games, but scores aren't important... at least, that's their story. The team had a blast playing ball, and was able to help raise money for a very important cause, and that's what really matters. OJJ members participating were **PPOs Justin Beasley, Kevin Broussard, Cassandra Gardiner, Joey Graciana, Courtney Holderman, Deacon Jones, Jason**

McCraney, Jody Osmer, Chris Potier and **PPS Robert Guirard**.



The team, left to right: Joey Graciana, Stephanie Graciana, Deacon Jones, Courtney Holderman, Chris Potier, Kevin Broussard, Jody Osmer, Cassandra Gardiner, Justin Beasley, Jason McCraney, Robert Guirard, Meg Ledet, and Christina Sanchez.



PPS Robert Guirard, and the result of his monster swing.

A Success Story

Faron L. was recently placed on probation in Ville Platte, and was placed on the caseload of **PPO Chris Mahler**. During intake in August, Faron's mother Lisa began to cry and, over the next two hours, told PPO Mahler about her boyfriend verbally abusing her and her son. She also said she was worried about what her son would do if the abuse ever turned physical. The abuse eventually got to the point that the police were called to the

residence, and the boyfriend was threatening to throw Faron and his mother out.

She told PPO Mahler that she had a friend that she could stay with for about a month, but that they would be homeless after. She said she could deal with being homeless, but Faron didn't deserve this kind of treatment. She said he didn't do anything wrong. PPO Mahler, being new to the area, consulted fellow Evangeline **PPO Jason Trahan**. PPO Trahan told PPO Mahler that he believed the Ville Platte Housing Authority had emergency housing for people in this family's situation.

PPO Mahler called that day. He and PPO Trahan made sure the family and the housing authority stayed in contact, and in early September, the mother called to inform PPOs Mahler and Trahan that she had been approved, and would be moving into the emergency housing the following week. The family now has a place to live, and no longer have to worry about the abuse.

Kudos to PPOs Mahler and Trahan for assisting this family in their time of need, and exemplifying what it means to meet the mission!

WHO DAT!!

The Lafayette Region celebrated the start of the 2010 NFL season by having a Saints Shirt & Jeans Day fundraiser, to benefit the Positive Focus Committee, in September, as the Defending Superbowl Champion (that feels good to say) New Orleans Saints opened their season that night against the Minnesota Vikings. Some weren't able to participate, due to court or other activities, but were with us in spirit!



Left to right: PPO's Kevin Broussard, Mike Waters, Michelle Deshotel, Rhonda Gallet, AS Cheryl Denais, PPO Denis Lacroix, AC Alina Perro and PPO Justin Beasley.

The Lafayette Region also held a Saints Shirt & Jeans Fundraiser for the Monday Night Football game New Orleans played on September 20 in San Francisco against the 49ers.

Congratulations

Lafayette Parish **PPO3 Courtney Holderman** was promoted to PPS. A dedicated officer and firearms instructor, we wish Courtney the best of luck, as we know she will be very successful in this new endeavor.

New Additions

Lafayette OJJ welcomed two new members to its family. **Social Worker Claude Deville** began his OJJ journey in late August. Claude will be conducting group sessions in areas in the Lafayette Region, and is anxious to work with our youth and their families. Claude has been doing contract work in several different areas, dealing with juveniles, so he is no stranger to the needs of the youth we service.

Social Worker Daronda Lathan, who is no stranger to the OJJ life, began with Lafayette OJJ in late September, and will be working with youth in the St. Martin Parish area. Daronda previously counseled youth at Jetson Center for Youth, and was the social worker for the Hammond Region.

Jetson Center for Youth

Third LA MOD Graduating Class of 2010

Eager to make a difference in the lives of youth, eager to be positive role models, eager to represent the Office of Juvenile Justice, eager to be employees of Jetson Center for Youth does not adequately describe JCY's October 1st graduates.

Thomas Blue, Kimberly Franklin, Marvin Scott, Nicole Smith, Regina White and JaKouri Williams bring to Jetson a wealth of experience and knowledge from very diverse disciplines and life exposures. Despite their differences in experiences and knowledge this group worked together as a team. Their greatest strength was their team spirit. The graduates were encouraged to do the right and ethical things in the performance of their job duties at Jetson because the safety and well being of the youth depended on this.

The theme for their graduation program was - On a **Mission** to Achieve the **Vision** directed by the **Guiding Principles**. The motto was - "We can achieve so much more working as a team." They embraced the theme and lived the motto. The importance of knowing OJJ's mission, vision and guiding principles and not just memorizing them was stressed throughout their staff development period.

The graduates were treated to doughnuts, milk and juice for breakfast and Papa John's pizza, honey barbecue wings and a variety of desserts for lunch. **Director Daron Brown** presented certificates and spoke words of encouragement to the graduates. **Group Leaders Oscar King, Melvin Carter and Ron Jarrell** spoke words of welcome and encouragement to the group. Class member **JaKouri Williams** directed recitation of OJJ's Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. Class member **Kimberly Franklin** spoke words of thanks through prose. The graduates received copies of their bio poems, "Saints"

tee shirts and "lunch money." JaKouri Williams received the most votes from his peers for showing his team spirit on graduation day. He received extra "lunch money."

"We can achieve so much more working as a team." We are only as strong as the weakest one among us, so help each other to be strong.



Jetson's LA MOD graduates.

Celebration Meal with GED Students of Scenic Alternative High School

Director Daron Brown and members of his staff broke bread together with two students who successfully completed their GED in September. A dinner was held at Sammy's Restaurant for students **D. Badon** and **B. Edwards**. They were accompanied by **Director Brown, Belinda Thomas, Larry Spears, Denise Clause, Gail Hargrove** and **Principal Ronnie Knox**. One student, **J. Smith** and one staff member, **Shirley Lewis**, were unable to attend but a to-go meal was taken back to him. All of us feasted on seafood and conversation. The youth really enjoyed the privilege of going to a nice restaurant and celebrating their accomplishments.

Principal Knox decided to honor the students, and Director Brown approved this excellent way to celebrate GED success each time a student passed the exam. A teacher or any

staff member can sponsor the student by paying for the meal and the student can order anything they want. The seafood platter was a little too much for one of the students but he ate until he couldn't eat any more.



Left to right: Principal Knox, students Devin B., Brodrick E., center, Program Coordinator Belinda Thomas, JJS Larry Spears, teachers Gail Hargrove, Denise Clause and Facility Director Daron Brown.

A really great time was had by everyone who attended and we are looking forward to many more celebration meals. Our youth at Scenic Alternative High School are really important to us and we strive to show them we care about them.

“Greatness Now” Presents at Scenic Alternative High School

In September the faculty of Scenic Alternative High School was involved in a staff development activity with consultants **Mischa Toland** and her husband and son. They are owners of Greatness Now, a human development company that specializes in directing individuals to their inner greatness. The entire day was spent on the topic, “Building him by Building Ourselves.” Ms. Toland has over 20 years in the human service field and has a background in social work. She and her son made a powerful presentation.

The faculty was actively involved in the numerous activities. The objectives were comprehensive and included understanding the importance of relationships, bias, and interactions as it relates to youth achievement; understand and have the ability to implement the power of strength-based approaches to empower the youth toward greatness and to develop team building techniques in order to improve student performance. Several key points were emphasized such as “a useless life is an early death” and “even God cannot change the past”

The team building information was timely and appropriate as we continue to work toward the LA Mod model of treatment. It served to remind the faculty of the importance of working as a team and that trust and effective communication is essential to a team that is successful.

Ms. Toland made presentations to the faculties of Riverside Alternative High School and Southside Alternative High School. It is important that staff development content is consistent with the mission of the agency.

TABE Administration and Certification for Faculty of Scenic Alternative High School

Susan Magee, Senior Evaluation consultant of CTB McGraw-Hill Companies, conducted a three-hour presentation necessary for teachers to be certified to administer and interpret the results of the TABE. TABE stands for the Test of Adult Basic Education and is the test of choice in juvenile justice schools. Practical knowledge needed for implementation and a discussion of how to accommodate students with disabilities was part of the presentation. A glimpse into the scoring and reporting of results as well as an overview of basic test management was discussed. A pre- and post test was administered to the teachers to guarantee that the information learned was retained. McGraw-Hill has developed new products

that would enhance instruction and are aligned with the results of the TABE.

This refresher was very beneficial as the TABE is one achievement test utilized at Scenic Alternative High School. This presentation reminded us of college courses taken on test and measurement. Ms. Magee was very knowledgeable and understood our setting and challenges.



Jetson teachers receive TABE instruction.

Progress in Learning is Proven at Scenic Alternative High School

Grade level advancement is evident as results of the 2009-2010 school year are analyzed. The results of the pre/post TABE (Test of Adult Basic Achievement) were gathered so the educational staff could see what progress had been made during the school year.

This data proves that a majority of the students made academic progress in all academic subjects. Some students showed no improvement nor did they show regression. Our focus for the 2010-2011 school year is that more students will show improvement than in the 2009-2010 school year.

Principal Knox sets the tone for teachers to teach and for students to learn. He is always available for both teachers and students. He encourages students to do their best and doesn't accept their excuses when they don't want to stay on-task. He demonstrates the traits of true leadership.

STOP, DROP, and READ at Scenic Alternative High School

Principal Ronnie Knox is **pushing** his STOP, DROP, and READ program with the entire Scenic Alternative High School staff including youth care staff, Para educators and teachers. Every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., in every classroom, students and staff are reading. Principal Knox said, "We are reading for the love and fun of reading." He made signs and posted them in the hallway.



Every teacher has a set of high interest books from the Bluford Series. The books range from the lower level to the

highest level. One goal for Scenic Alternative High School is to improve the students' reading scores by at least two grade levels. We have some great students who work daily to improve. All of the students need to be motivated and believe that they can improve. We want all of our students to advance from good to great. We are setting the model for them to be men in every way by our walk, talk, and look. We expect great success from our Stop, Drop, and Read program.

More "Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire" Chapters

The faculty book study continues at Scenic Alternative High School. The September staff development was centered on four more chapters of the book.

Add it Up - Chapter 5 was presented by our newest teacher, **Ms. Ringgold**. The author emphasized that students need to be taught math. It is not enough to just have the student's complete exercises of drill. Students either love math or hate math. In order to learn math, students must understand the power of numbers. Ms. Ringgold

demonstrated the concepts by introducing a math minute activity. Our teachers are just like our students, some love math and some hate math. This was evident when some teachers wouldn't even participate because they felt like they would not be successful. This session was interesting and well presented.

Put Me in Coach – Chapter 10 was presented by **Ms. Barnardez** dressed as a coach with whistle, cap and “take me out to the ballgame” music. An added touch was she provided crackerjacks and cokes for the teacher to enjoy while she presented the information. The author indicated that often the playground or sports arena is the perfect environment to gain rapport with students. The playground/sports activities should be organized so students can learn skills. These lessons can be transferred to the academic learning environment. Baseball is especially a good sport because ALL students get an opportunity to participate. Good sportsmanship needs to be taught to the students during the process of learning to play.

Think for Yourself – Chapter 12 was presented by **Ms. Sheppard**, SSD staff. The author indicated that problem solving is more important now than ever before. Students can learn to problem solve by analyzing information and developing decision making skills. Students working in groups to problem solve allows them to see different points of view and alternate ways of solving problems. There are many strategies to use in the classroom setting such as: act it out, draw a picture, look for a pattern, make a chart or organized list, and use logical reasoning.

Celluloid Heroes – Chapter 13 was presented by **Ms. Andrews**, SSD teacher. Use of films in the classroom is designed to improve writing, critical thinking, time management, and responsibility skills. Students are challenged to listen, discuss and write about the films shown. Many films have an educational purpose and many were

recommended. Some that you may want to show your family are Antwone Fisher, Stand and Deliver, Freedom Writers, Twelve Angry Men, A Hard Day's Night, Field of Dreams. Of course, you know that many films follow a successful book!

Identifying Cells is What It's All About At Scenic Alternative High School

The first week of September, **Mr. Dwayne Nedie**, science teacher, had the students on the edge of their desks. He introduced the concept of cells as the basic unit of living matter. The students were challenged to identify, observe, and describe the basic components of cells and their functions.

Students working in cooperative groups constructed cell models of both animal and plant cells. The students were able to show the interrelationship of the organelles to each other.

Later in the week, the students were introduced to the basic structure of nucleic acids. The lesson developed into a description of the relationships among DNA, genes, chromosomes, and proteins. The cumulating activity was for students to complete a DNA structure model which focused on understanding nucleotide bases and their components.

Students are always engaged in activities in Mr. Nedie's classroom. Hands-on activities keep most students involved and add another learning style to ensure that learning has taken place.

Mr. Nedie is fondly called the “mad scientist” by his colleagues. They always enjoy seeing what he is up to next. His enthusiasm for teaching reflects the progress that students make. **Principal Knox** encourages and supports all hands-on activities. “Great science work by hands-on students is taking place in the mad Science teacher's classroom. I love observing Mr. Nedie's classroom - he

has something going on weekly with students,” said Principal Knox.



Students Troy M. and Ladon S. explain the models that their group made.

The Price of Haircuts Has Just Gone Down



Ronnie Knox, Principal of Scenic Alternative High School, recently received a great haircut from a barbering

student at the Capital Area Technical College in Baton Rouge. Student **Andrew F.** was very skilled and gave Mr. Knox a great ‘line.’

A First for Scenic Alternative High School: State Superintendent of Education Addresses Students

State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek spoke to the youth and staff during an assembly in September to honor students who had earned a GED during last school year and present them with their class rings.

This was the first time in the history of Scenic Alternative High School that a State Superintendent of Education ever visited, spoke, and toured the campus. Superintendent Pastorek had very positive

comments about the education program and JCY therapeutic setting. He told the audience of students and staff he wanted to see the school be the best it could be. “You matter; you count; you’re important to me and I want you to get the best education you can get,” was just one of many positive remarks made during his speech.



Left to right: Assistant Secretary Dr. Girard Melancon, Director Daron Brown, State Superintendent Paul Pastorek, Principal Ronnie Knox and Director of Education Kim Mims, touring the school.

After the assembly adjourned, Superintendent Pastorek and other guests toured the school buildings and dorms. He praised the bulletin boards and was amazed at the school spirit shown during the school assembly and the great behavior of the students. He felt that the staff has a genuine interest in the students. He told Principal Knox and Director of Education **Kim Mims** that he wants to support the facility’s education department and encouraged them to contact him.

Hammond Regional Office

SUPERSTAR!

Hammond OJJ’s **Superstar** for August was **PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia**. She was recognized by **PPO1 Denise Wall** for never complaining when she needs paperwork from the courthouse. **Superstar** for October was **PPO3 Tiffany James**. She was recognized by **PPO2 Leigh Calmes** for taking notes during an Administrative Review.

Effective Black Parenting Program Presented

By PPS Dawnita Hodge



Instructors Daronda Lathan (front) and Dawnita Hodge (rear right) are joined with the 4 participants.

Ten African American female parents/guardians of youth under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Justice, recently attended the first of ten training sessions on Effective Black Parenting. Hammond PPS Dawnita Hodge and Social Worker Daronda Lathan, conducted the training sessions. The Effective Black Parenting program is a dynamic and culturally relevant skill-building program for raising proud and confident African American children. It is a nationally acclaimed parenting skill-building program, created by the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring (CICC), that teaches parents and others how to raise African American children to become healthy, proud and capable people.

Due to various circumstances and situations, all ten parents/guardians were unable to attend all of the sessions. Four remained consistent in attending, and received praise from the instructors for "Modeling Self-Discipline." During the 10 weeks of training, we engaged in heartwarming discussions about the parent's/guardian's family and extended family values, family rules, life goals for their children, methods of effective praise and effective communication, child growth

and development, positive self-esteem, and many other topics centered on parenting strategies and skills.

At the graduation ceremony the parents/guardians expressed their thanks to us for introducing them to this program. Each one of them stated what they have learned from the training and how they plan to continue to apply it to their lives and to the lives of the children they are raising.

Four parents/guardians received Certificates of Participation. They all planned to attend a one day seminar on Effective Black Parenting in order to receive their Certificate of Successful Completion of the program.

Anger Management Group Graduation

By Daronda Parker-Lathan

In September a group of youth completed the first Anger Management Group conducted in the Hammond office, that I facilitated. Each youth discussed a topic of the program and made a heartfelt presentation to their parents. Each youth was represented by a parent and sibling in celebration of their completion of the program. One parent reported how techniques learned in the group prevented her daughter from being removed from the bus the previous week. Four youth completed the program and one youth received a certificate of participation. A pizza party followed the graduation. Special thanks to PPOs Mike Marques, Kasey Wall and Jenna Hill for their support and referrals to the program.

SSC Wagner Attends Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Social Service Counselor IV Lori Wagner attended a mission trip in July, hosted by One World One Mission in Humacao, Puerto Rico. To help fund the trip SSCIV Lori Wagner enlisted the help of her fellow employees asking for donations to support a yard sale. WAE Officer Jessica Freeman,

PPO Christy Ford and **Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues**, went above and beyond to provide goods for the yard sale. A big debt of gratitude goes out to all who helped. They helped raise over \$300 to fund the mission.

It was a family effort, as Lori, her son, Brice, his girlfriend, Lacie and her mother, Jaana, all went to serve together. The mission led a Vacation Bible School for the community in Humacao. Over 150 children attended each day and over 350 members of the community attended the block party held that week. Through this mission over 50 members of the community and children gave public profession of faith to God. The Mission Team also included a baseball team from Baton Rouge that played local teams and WON!! Every game, however through their ministry over 30 baseball players including the coach from a Venezuelan team accepted God as their Savior.

It was the most amazing experience of my life. We should all learn to serve one another each and every day.

Restorative Justice Project Presented

By Lori Wagner

Amanda Chapoton, LPC-S, LMFT, RPT, with Brandon P. Romano & Associates, recently facilitated a Restorative Justice Project with youth in the Hammond Regional Office.

The adolescent sex offender group meets on a weekly basis in the Hammond OJJ office. The background and goals of the program were explained to the group and they were asked to come up with a project that would allow them to “give back” and also help survivors of sexual abuse.



The group decided that they would construct a

sexual abuse prevention book. The goal of the group was to provide young children with a tool that would assist them in learning ways to remain safe from sexual abuse situations. The topics included were...

Say No! Children need to understand that they can and should say NO when someone...anyone is engaging in an action that they do not like.

Who do you tell? Children often pick one person to “test the waters” when something confusing or bad has occurred. Many times the person of choice does not believe them or tells the child that they must have misunderstood. It is important that we empower children to not only tell an adult but to KEEP telling until someone believes them.

Grooming – Children must be educated about the process of grooming and how the process is used as a way to gain their trust and then later manipulated for the benefit of the abuser.

Pornography – Pornography for most people is an obvious tool used by child predators. Parents need to understand that exposure to movies, magazines, pictures and other sexually explicit materials can cause children to become desensitized and therefore more vulnerable to potential abuse.

Private Parts – Research shows that children who are educated about their bodies are less likely to become victims of sexual abuse. It is important to empower our children by teaching them that their private parts are “private and special” parts of their bodies and that they should only be seen or touched with their permission.

Get to know people – Although we now know that more children are molested by someone they know or by family members, it is still important to protect them from potential unknown abusers as well. Parents must get to know people before allowing them access to their children.

The Buddy System – It is a fact that children are less likely to be sexually abused when grouped with at least one other peer. Parents should limit the possibilities of “one on one” contacts with adults and older children. This will minimize the opportunities for an abuser to take advantage of their child.

Trust Your Gut – Children often describe a “funny feeling” or express a dislike for a person or situation. Parents should reinforce this built in radar system and encourage their children to trust it at all times.

Farewell

Social Worker **Daronda Parker-Lathan** transferred to the Lafayette Office in September. The Hammond OJJ staff showed their appreciation for Daronda by presenting her with a card and a gift card. Good luck Daronda!

We Celebrate Bosses' Day



The staff at Hammond OJJ surprised **RM Julie Eudy** for Bosses' Day. Everyone who was in the office gathered in the conference room,

and Ms. Julie was lured in on the premise of a staffing. She was quite surprised when she entered the room! Staff presented her with a crown and a gift card.

United Way Campaign Kicked off

We began our United Way Campaign in October following a presentation by **Larry Mitts**, Resource Development Associate for the United Way, at our staff meeting. This year, instead of only asking for donations through payroll deductions, we made a contest out of the fundraiser. Staff was separated into four groups. Each group will

come up with its own fundraising idea, and the group that raises the most money for the United Way will win! The campaign will run through November 16. The winning group will be announced at our November staff meeting on November 18. **Greg Loushine**, Executive Director with the United Way, will attend our November staff meeting to see which team wins the contest and to collect any funds raised.

Restorative Justice Project

By SSCIV Lori Wagner

This was written by one of our youth waiting to go to a secure facility. This youth has worked very hard in self introspection and has applied the knowledge learned, to examine past behaviors and thinking errors, and applied it to current functioning. What an awesome example of restorative justice!

Special

I am unique inside and out, but only GOD know what that's all about

People look at me like I'm crazy; it's ok, because I'm God's baby

I'm very wise for my age, a lot of people can truly say

*I use my third eye that the Lord gave me
I don't have any shame*

*I'm one of a kind in so many ways
There's no other like me, no matter what people say*

I been through so much and at times, it was really rough

But I went on every day, never giving up

Training Events

Several PPOs and PPSs from the Hammond Regional Office had the opportunity to attend firearms practice at the TPSO range in Amite. The annual 8 hour firearms classroom training was held and completed by all staff in September and October.

All staff completed Bloodborne Pathogens training in September and October.

Our annual Chemical Weapons recertification training was held in October. **Shane Chaisson** with FPJDC presented the training to staff.

Other training conducted in October included: how to use the new oral drug screening kits, Motivational Interviewing (Open Ended Questions), our annual review of the Safety Rules, and our quarterly safety topic was Holiday Fire Hazards.



PPS Carrie Austin, PPO3 Tiffany James, PPO2 Shirley Verberne, PPO2 Danielle August attended firearms practice.

Central Office

Farewell

We said farewell to two members of the IT staff. **Zeke Kirby** and **Vy Nguyen** both moved on to other positions. We will miss both of them, for their willingness to pitch in and help whenever needed. Best wishes!

Condolences

Paralegal Kim Lemaire's father, Mr. Dale Edsell, passed away November 2, 2010. Please keep Kim and her family in your thought and prayers.

Congratulations

Chief of Investigative Services **Col. Louis Hyatt** is proud to announce that his son, State Police **Sgt. Rodney Hyatt**, has been promoted to Lieutenant at Operational Development in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Attorney Steven James Farber, J.D., was recently notified by the Louisiana State Bar Association that he was re-elected for a second term as member of the House of Delegates for the 21st JDC. The House of Delegates is the legislative body of the State Bar. Steve was also re-elected to a second term as the Chair of the Government and Public Law Section of the State Bar. This section is the 2nd largest voluntary section of the State Bar.

Community-Based Services: Good News and Sad News

Good news: Congratulations to **Program Manager Angela Bridgewater**, who is expecting a baby boy in February 2011.

Sad news: **Program Manager Carmen Leiva** retired as of Nov. 1. Although Community Based Services looks at this as 'sad' news for the agency, we also take it as 'good' news for Carmen to be eligible to retire at such a "young" age. We wish her the best as she enters another chapter of her life. The staff put on a fabulous surprise going away party complete with great food, entertainment and gifts.



Laquelia Smith, Jacqueline Page, Carmen Leiva with the plaque, Jan Crain, Nancy Gautreau and Melba Oubre celebrate Carmen's retirement.

Playwright Gwen Brinkley's Play Produced

Adm. Asst. Gwen Brinkley wrote the skeleton for a play entitled *Pradagirl*, a female version of the story of the prodigal son. The setting of *Pradagirl* switches between a quaint, tasteful, but very distinguished family boutique, and Zebra Productions, which is nothing more than a fake studio, a facade. The owners are full of deception. The boutique however, is a family business owned by a mother and her two daughters. *Pradagirl* is the female version of the Prodigal Son as told in Luke 15:11-32 in the Bible.

The objective of the drama is to teach teenage girls about the importance of family values, honoring parents and to illustrate the devastating consequences of rebellion, disrespect and what happens when teenage girls follow the advice of those who may not be as sincere or as caring as they pretend to be. "Let's do what we can to present better choices for our teens and to snatch them back from a society that has very little positive choices for our young growing community," said Gwen. "Together we can reinforce family values from a Biblical perspective and teach them that love is not always the motive behind every smile."

Bridge City Center for Youth

Congratulations

BCCY is proud to announce that **Investigator Johnson "Brad" Church**, recently graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. In addition to graduating, Mr. Church was invited to join Alpha Phi Sigma, a National Criminal Justice Honor Society, due to his outstanding scholastic achievements and thus graduated with honors. Mr. Church started his college career in 1971 at Loyola University of New Orleans, but life got in the way. Now, almost 40 years later at the age of 57, he achieved that educational goal. Mr. Church's accomplishment shows you are never too old to learn and if you keep at it you can achieve goals that appear out of reach.

Fellowship Day Event

The JUMP (Juveniles Understanding and Managing Problems) Sex Offender Treatment program at BCCY, which includes Hope and Pride Dormitories, hosted a day of fellowship with the treatment team, youth, and their families. There was plenty of food, music, games, and smiles throughout the day. This event was sponsored by Morning Star Baptist Church and the JUMP staff. The families had the opportunity to spend time with their youth and personally meet staff members. Counselors, therapists, and mentors also used the day to discuss issues and concerns, and provide information on the program and individual treatment. Here is a summary of the event from a youth's perspective:

Family Day

By Youth Gerald M., Hope Dormitory

On August 29 Hope and Pride dormitories had a Family Fun Day in the gym at BCCY. Staff, youth and their families were present for the event. Initially, from some of the youths' point of view, it was thought that this was going to be a boring, extended version of

Sunday's visitation, but to our surprise it was a great success. From the beginning to the end of Family Fun Day there was nothing but positive interaction between youth, staff, and the families. The youth and staff really came together as one to make sure there were no problems. **Youth Edward M., Deandre' G. and Trustin A.** were all posted at the food area passing out drinks and snacks and we had the "Clean-Up Crew," which included **Larry W. and Joshua T.**, who made sure all the tables stayed clean throughout the event. From jump rope to Connect Four, there were a lot of activities that the families could interact with their kids and others. Altogether, Family Day was a huge success and the youth really appreciate the staff who put this together and **Ms. London** for allowing us to have it. We believe all dorms should experience this.



Youth enjoying Family Day at BCCY.

GED Students at BCCY Looking for Career as Chefs

The students that attend Culinary Arts Class at BCCY are always excited to get the call that visitors are coming and they have the chance to show off their talent. Recently Louisiana Supreme Court **Justice Bernette J. Johnson** visited the campus and was very impressed with the class and wanted to know if we did catering because she had some ideas to help showcase the program.

Chef Ron Sonnier is really proud of the progress the students have made while in his class and some have gone on to seek jobs in

the hospitality industry. Working closely with Café Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen and Café Hope with programs for the students to continue their culinary education. The GED students help new students coming into the class to get oriented to where things are and what will be expected of them.



Chef Sonnier and the Culinary Arts students.

"Believe me when I tell you the students when engaged have little time to get into mischief," Chef Sonnier said. "I have the best job on campus." Chef Sonnier gets calls daily from former students reporting on their progress or just wanting to touch base.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge John Michael Guidry Visits Youth

By PPO Elois Nelson

In an effort to support Crime Prevention Month, **PPO Elois Nelson** and **PPO Roy McBride** invited First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge **John Michael Guidry** to Baton Rouge OJJ to give words of encouragement to our youth in the Harmony programs. He graciously accepted our invitation and in October he spoke to a group of over 30 youth and staff from Harmony and the Baton Rouge District.

Judge Guidry was not hesitant to share his own personal experience with the youth of how he grew up in a single parent home in

*Judge Guidry*

South Baton Rouge in a high crime area known as “the bottom.” He told a gruesome story of how “three times I’ve had a gun put to my head” and how he credits his faith in God and a praying mother as the reasons he believed he escaped death and jail. He admitted he got into trouble but then he got it together. Growing up, Judge Guidry said his peers would tease him and called him all kinds of names. He said he was called “nerd, square, mama’s boy, and even teacher’s pet. But now when they see me, they call me Judge.” He said “those same peers are coming before my court system because of trouble they have gotten themselves into. It brings home the fact that those who laugh at you today, may stand before you tomorrow in need of your help.”

Judge Guidry stressed education and encouraged the youth to get at least a high school diploma or GED and to go even further with their education, if possible. He said the foundation of his own success as a First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge was education.

*Judge Guidry addresses youth.*

As the youth listened attentively to Judge Guidry’s speech and the testimonies of his life story, he told them he hopes their paths will not cross at his level in the judicial system. He then explained to them his duties. He reviews the lower court rulings on appeals and indicated that they are “rarely” overturned. He urged the youth to “set goals and believe in yourselves. Sometimes you have to separate yourself from negative friends and bad company. I know I did.” Judge Guidry’s final words of encouragement were “You have to first believe in you and your abilities to be the best you can be. No one else can do this for you. And you have to have a relationship with God.”

Judge Guidry is a 1980 graduate of McKinley High School, 1983 graduate of LSU and a 1987 Cum Laude graduate of the Southern University Law Center. In April 2010, Judge Guidry was inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, National, and American Bar Associations as well as the American Judges Association, the Louisiana Conference Court of Appeal Judges, and the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. Judge Guidry was elected to his current position as a Judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeal in 1997 and was re-elected in October 2010 to his second 13-year term. Judge Guidry spends many hours in schools and churches and other community forums motivating and encouraging our youth.

Congratulations

PPO Roy McBride was the August **Employee of the Month**. Mr. McBride is described by his colleagues as “helpful to the youth we serve and anyone in need.”

You're Looking Good

This section will highlight the staff who were caught doing something good and beyond the call of duty!

PPO Patsy Adams, SSC Jennifer Anderson, PPO Yolonda Latimer, PPO Roy McBride and PPS Michelle Thomas are looking good for "coming together and making it happen." The team came together to make a difference in the life of one of our youth whose family is experiencing hard times. No one was asked to do anything. Just a few words of concern led to volunteered individual acts of kindness. We know how important it is for our youth to have good spirits and good self-esteem, so together we decided to purchase needed items for school, and personal items, for this youth to give her a fresh start this school year and to show her we care. We're watching you and this is TEAMWORK at its finest!

PPO Leslie Jones, PPO Patsy Adams and PS Jacqueline Page are looking good for "operation rescue and replacement." The officers noticed a puppy being pushed out of a moving car. They saw that the animal was abused and in need of care. A few phone calls were made and the puppy was rescued and placed in a new home. We're watching you and we know the puppy is safe and sound!

PPO Larry Aaron is looking good for "seeing the need and doing the do." PPO Aaron approached the court and requested an early release from one of the youth on his caseload. The youth is very ill and required immediate attention. PPO Aaron staffed the case and went before the judge requesting permission to return the youth to his home so that he could receive the proper care and treatment. **We're watching you and you got a good heart!**

PPS Cobie Chauvin and PPO Stefanie Krygowski are looking good for "lending a hand and donating gas." PPS Chauvin and PPO Krygowski were off duty when they spotted a motorist in distress. It seems the

motorist ran out of gas. The two gave the motorist a ride to the gas station, purchased the gas and transported the motorist back to the stranded vehicle. We're watching you and you put the "H" in helping hands!

PPO Katina Broden and PPS Cobie Chauvin are looking good for "Keeping it coming." Both of these ladies donate items continuously to help our needy families. We have several youth whose families are struggling to meet their everyday needs and a helping hand goes a long way. Both PPO Broden and PPO Chauvin donate various items weekly and biweekly to help out any of our families. They donate without knowing who or where the items are going, but knowing that they will end up in the right hands. We're watching you and we're glad you like helping people!

Hats Off



***AA Gail Miller,
son-in-law
Michael Gibson,
Sr. and daughter
Jade Gibson.***

"Hats Off" to **AC Gail Miller** whose son-in-law **Michael Gibson**, was featured in the cover story for Beautiful Black Magazine as one of the most successful business men for the year 2010. Her son-in-law is a realtor, and he reached sales exceeding \$1 million in his first year. The youngest of 8 children, Mr. Gibson has come a long way. Yes, this little Boy Scout in the lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans went on to join the Army, become a First Sergeant, earn the Morell Award as an Army Recruiter, retire and become a successful realtor. Did I mention that he is also the JROTC instructor for Glen Oaks High and serves as an active worker in the Media Ministry at Living Faith Christian Center? Mr. Gibson work hard, loves his family and gives back to the community.

"Hats Off" to **PPO Brandon Woods** for becoming a mentor to one of our youth at YCP. PPO Woods was contacted in writing by the youth, whose case was closed, and asked if he would consider being his mentor. The youth stated that the mentor he had was not responding to him and he knew from his experience with PPO Woods that he could count on him. The youth's mother felt that PPO Woods would be a great help and support for her son. PPO Woods is delighted and ready for the task. Thanks, Big Brother!

Kudos

Kudos to **PPO Stefanie Krygowski**, our PPCT Instructor. PPO Krygowski puts in hard work and makes us work hard. She takes care of her caseload and she takes care of us. All of our new officers completed 40 hours of PPCT and we're confident that they are trained and ready to go. PPO Krygowski assisted P&P Post Academy Instructors this week for PPCT as a representative from OJJ and she also participated in the Juvenile Justice Forum hosted by Hosanna Christian Academy. The panel consisted of the following speakers: **DA Hillar Moore; Judge Michael Guidry; widow of victim Liz Belaïre; reformed felon and motivational speaker Fox Rich** and two inmates from DCI and Hunt Correctional. Among the things discussed were crime, crime prevention and the effects of crime. The youth were afforded the opportunity to ask questions by submitting questions in writing, which were then read and answered by the panel. The youth appeared very interested and receptive to the panel.

Kudos to **PPO Darla Hood, PPO Larry Aaron** and **PPS Michelle Thomas** for the great job and effort during our monthly Juvenile Advisory Council meeting held in the Baton Rouge Office. JAC is held once a month and first time probationers are required to attend. The council was created approximately two years ago to provide an orientation on probation/parole for first time probationers and families. The council

provides information and answers questions to assist youth and their family through their probation/parole period. Good Job!

Kudos to **PPO Larry Aaron**, our new armorer. PPO Aaron has worked diligently to restock our armory and to make sure every officer has exactly what he/she needs to get the job done. This includes ammo for our academy participants and keeping good records for inventory. He takes special care to inquire about officer safety and best practice.

Welcome Aboard

Welcome to new **PPO Courtney Dickerson**. We are happy to have you as our newest team member.

"T" for Teamwork

We want to recognize **PPO Brandon Woods, PPO Patsy Adams** and **PPO Stefanie Krygowski**. These three put the "T" in Teamwork because they are always ready to lend a helping hand. Any hour of the day or night, week day or week end, if you need them they will come and they still manage to do a great job Monday thru Friday. Thanks Y'all!

A "Special Thanks" to **PPO Keelan Robertson, PPO Steven Dukes** and **TO Paul Kopan** for volunteering to assist other officers relocate their office. The three worked hard and diligently to make sure everything was moved safely. Thanks, guys for putting the "T" in Teamwork.

Special Thanks to **PPO Yolonda Latimer, OC Irma Gonzales** and **PPO Keondra Riley** for all of their creative expressions through decorations for every occasion, party and office event. You ladies really know how to set the scene and create the atmosphere. Thanks, ladies for putting the "T" in Teamwork.

Training Sessions Held

The Baton Rouge Office recently completed PPCT Refresher training.

PPS Wendy Sarner and **PPO Patsy Adams** attended the JETS Master Training in Lafayette.

PPO Stefanie Krygowski, **PPO Patsy Adams**, **PPO Marina Jenkins**, **PPO Naomi Rodney** and **PPO Elois Nelson** attended the Facility Monitoring Training in Lafayette.

PPS Cobie Chauvin and **PPS Wendy Sarner** completed CPTP required training for supervisors.

RM Sue Larisey, **PPS Rickey Cannon**, **PPS Cobie Chauvin**, **PPS Wendy Sarner** and **PPS Michelle Thomas** attended the Quarterly Supervisor Training.

SSC Jennifer Anderson and **PPS Michelle Thomas** - Domestic Violence

ACA Christina Falcon - OJJ Education Certificate

PPS Cobie Chauvin completed CPTP required training for supervisors.

CO Irma Gonzales and **PPS Cobie Chauvin** - Safety Pre-Audit

Just for Fun

Baton Rouge OJJ kicked off the month of October with a Football Tailgate. The office gathered together wearing their favorite football team's jersey, tee shirt or colors and enjoyed the football season's team spirit. Each unit was responsible for a portion of the meal which included appetizers, side dishes, desert and entree. The main meal consisted of Cajun fried catfish, award winning fettuccini, taste like mama potato salad, don't stop to you get enough dirty rice and va ba boom Italian green salad and a host of delicious desserts. The room was decorated with SU,

LSU and Saints fans in mind. We had a wonderful time and a great atmosphere.



Also, we celebrated Boss's Day by surprising **RM Sue Larisey** with a little get together, some treats and a special gift.

Flowers for RM Larisey.

Congratulations



PPO Larry Aaron was selected Employee of the Month for October. PPO Aaron's coworkers nominated the new "Armorer" because he is always willing to step up to the plate.

You're Looking Good

This section will highlight the staff who were caught doing something good and beyond the call of duty!



PPO Larry Aaron is "looking good" for operation rescue and release. PPO Aaron was sitting at his desk hard at work when a baby squirrel ran by his foot. Surprised to say the least, PPO Aaron captured what appeared to be a baby flying squirrel, placed him in a small box and brought him home to meet his family. The family fed the squirrel grapes and acorns for dinner and released him to a nest in a nearby tree. So, PPO Aaron rescued his coworkers from the flying squirrel and released him to a new home filled with love. We're watching you, PPO Aaron and you've got "saving the world one squirrel at a time" written all over you.

Alexandria Regional Office

OJJ Anniversaries

John Baker, PPS, has been employed with OJJ for 21 years and **Cassandra Conston, Adm. Coordinator 3** has been with OJJ for 16 years.

Bosses' Day Celebrated

Staff surprised the bosses by cooking breakfast for them in honor of National Boss Day. We appreciate our bosses so much.



Bosses Clay Dupuy, Sharon Graham, John Baker, Pamela Oakes, and RM Johnny Qualls.

A Day on the Water



Supervisors **RM Johnny Qualls, John Baker** and "**Captain**" **Clay Dupuy** sailed out for a shrimping trip. Staff enjoyed a shrimp jambalaya and fried fish prepared by our fishermen. We thank them for the delicious meal and can't wait for their next trip out to the Gulf.

PPS Pam Oakes, PPS Clay Dupuy and **PPS John Baker** attended an Ethics Training in Monroe. Clay took part in the panel of ethics questions.

RM Johnny Qualls and **PPS Clay Dupuy** attended the Response Team Meeting in Baton Rouge. Mr. Qualls led the meeting.

We are glad to welcome back **PPO 3 Donna Desoto** after an illness. She is doing much better and making progress every day.

Condolences

Please keep **PPS Pam Oakes** and her family in your thoughts and prayers, as her father-in-law passed away in September.

Success Story

In July Youth **Jared D.** of Trout Louisiana, received his high School diploma from the John Adams Virtual School, at age 16. The youth, throughout his probation, has always been encouraged by his **PPO Heath Wallace** to try his best in whatever he does. Jared showed great dedication to the home school program and continues to follow all the conditions of probation.

A Big Thank You goes out to **PPO3, Lori Johnson**, for taking time out to organize a team to participate in the 2010 Komen Alexandria Race for the Cure 5K run/walk held in October. As members of this team, we are each playing a part in helping Susan G. Komen for the Cure end breast cancer forever. Lori received over \$550 in donations which will make a difference in our community.

Recipe of the Month

BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations, Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

Finally cool weather and autumn are here! If you are like me you are probably starting to look for those special recipes that make holidays really special. This month is when I really try to get everything together for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The two recipes I chose are really good and when you try them on your family and friends they will really think you can cook. Be careful when you make the Pumpkin Upside Down Cake because it will disappear before your very eyes, so plan on making an extra one for the dinner celebration. The chili recipe freezes well and will come in handy when you are doing all the cooking for the holidays. If you need to find that something special and don't know where to look, let me know and I certainly will do my best to get a recipe or hint out to you to make your holiday cooking a great success.

Bon appetite - **Chef Ron Sonnier**

Pumpkin Pie Upside Down Cake

First Layer:

1(29 oz) can Pumpkin
1 (5 oz) can Evaporated milk
1 cup Sugar
3 whole Eggs
2 tsp.Cinnamon

Second Layer:

1 box Yellow cake mix
½ cup Chopped pecans
2 sticks Butter, melted

Topping:

8 oz. Cream cheese
1 cup Sugar
1 8 oz.container frozen whipped topping, thawed
½ tsp. Vanilla

First Layer:

Spray a 9x13 inch pan with cooking spray then line the pan bottom with parchment or waxed paper. Mix pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugar, eggs and cinnamon together in medium bowl. Stir until well blended. Pour into lined baking pan.

Second layer:

Sprinkle dry cake mix over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle pecans over cake mix. Drizzle butter over pecans. Bake in preheated 350° oven for 45-45 minutes. Let cool in pan, then invert into serving tray and remove parchment paper.

Topping:

Mix cream cheese and sugar together with a mixer until well blended. Fold in whipped topping and

vanilla. Cake can be frosted with the topping or serve it in a pretty dish and top each piece of cake with a small dollop.

Sonnier's Chili

Serves 10

Ingredients

3 lbs. ground chuck
3 oz Mexene Chili Power Seasoning
2 tsp cayenne pepper
2 medium chopper bell pepper
2 medium chopped onions
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 bay leaves
¼ cup brown sugar
3 tbsp Sonnier seasoning
1 15 oz can tomato sauce
1 10 oz can Ro-Tel Tomatoes
1 15 oz can diced tomatoes
1 6 oz can tomato paste
1 15 oz can red kidney beans
1 15 oz can pinto beans
Tabasco to taste

In a very hot cast iron skillet, brown ground chuck, while browning, add chili powder, cayenne pepper, Sonnier seasoning, chopped bell peppers, chopped onion and minced garlic. When meat is cooked drain off any excess grease. Add tomato paste, Ro-Tel tomatoes, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, brown sugar and bay leaves. Cook on low heat about 1½ hours, then add the canned beans. Taste and adjust seasonings adding more if desired. Bring back to a boil and chili is ready to serve.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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